



Minutes **Nevada Homeland Security Commission** **Rural Task Force Meeting**

ATTENDANCE

DATE	10 November 2005
TIME	1:00 pm
LOCATION	401 S Carson St – Carson City 555 W Washington – Las Vegas
METHOD	Teleconference between sites
RECORDER	Denise Parsons

Committee Members	Present	Staff & Others in Attendance	Present
Bob Fisher	X	Giles Vanderhoof, Homeland Security Administrator	X
Marge Gunn	X	Larry Casey, Homeland Security Commission Staff	X
Joe Curtis	X	Denise Parsons, Homeland Security Commission Staff	X

1. CALL TO ORDER

At 1:00 pm Bob Fisher called the meeting to order.

2. COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

Bob Fisher suggested that they proceed to Item 3 on the agenda – Formation of the Task Force.

3. FORMATION OF THE TASK FORCE

Bob Fisher made opening remarks about the formation of the task force and asked for comments from the participants concerning goals, membership, and administration, and suggested that these were items he would be bringing to the HSC meeting in December.

Goals:

Mr. Curtis asked what is the purpose? He stated that this would give the rural counties a direct voice in the subcommittee and be able to talk to each other about issues in the various counties.

Ms. Gunn stated that this committee would give rural Nevada a voice and equality for all of Nevada.

Mr. Fisher asked Mr. Vanderhoof for his opinion concerning the goals of the task force?

Mr. Vanderhoof replied there needs to be a statewide approach involving critical infrastructure.

Mr. Fisher stated that it certainly is a different Homeland Security Commission now and Dr. Carrison has done a great job so far.

Mr. Vanderhoof stated that the funding formula would be based on an amount per county + population – regarding the vulnerability assessment. He also stated that people forget about other hazards and vulnerabilities within the state.

Mr. Fisher stated that it is certainly a challenge to present this committee to the rural areas. How to provide a voice having access to the commission?

Mr. Curtis stated that someone needs to bring individuals into this committee that people will listen to, since the vast majority of the smaller counties are doing this stuff with volunteers. He also concurred with Mr. Fisher's comments about the direction of the commission since Dr. Carrison became chairman. He also stated that all rural folks should be on an e-mail list – as a form of communication.

Mr. Fisher asked how many members should there be?

Membership:

Ms. Gunn stated that too many members and it becomes cumbersome. She suggested that the members rotate around every three months so that all the counties have representation. She also stated that the most important thing is just knowing that the rural counties will have a voice with the commission.

Ms. Gunn concurred with Mr. Curtis regarding educating the counties about Homeland Security and added that the vulnerability assessment has been a good education. She also stated that the LEPCs should be invited.

Mr. Vanderhoof concurred with Mr. Curtis about keeping people informed. He recommended bringing small county emergency managers into the family so that emergency managers stay in the loop. However, he stated that he had a concern regarding Ms. Gunn's suggestion about members rotating every quarter?

Mr. Fisher stated that with rotation, there would be a new task force every three months.

Mr. Fisher stated that the key is structuring the task force so that all 14 counties buy into the fact that the commission is listening and have adequate participation.

Mr. Curtis stated that the commission needs to communicate with all the counties to inform them of their activities. He suggested five members be appointed to the task force and each person represent more than 1 county.

Mr. Casey stated that the goal needs to focus on posing questions that can be elaborated on each quarter at commission meetings. There should be a core group consisting of 5 to 6 people that care for initial counties and rotate around. Mr. Vanderhoof added, that they shouldn't forget about the tribes.

Ms. Gunn suggested that she would be glad to go to neighboring counties and get their inputs.

Mr. Vanderhoof stated that the next emergency manager conference is scheduled for December 7th. He also suggested that the task force have 5 members that are assigned to several counties each.

Mr. Fisher stated he was very leery of doing that since each community is separate and has separate issues.

Mr. Vanderhoof asked if we should limit membership to emergency managers?

Mr. Fisher recommended starting small to make sure that every county is represented. That way, everything won't be Southern Nevada related. Function of the task force will change.

Mr. Curtis identified three Potential Goals:

1. Statewide Communication System
2. Generalized funding disbursement
3. Placement of resources

Mr. Vanderhoof asked for clarification on Item 2, Disbursement factor?

Mr. Curtis stated that it involved looking at things from a vulnerability standpoint.

Mr. Vanderhoof asked for clarification on Item 3, Proper placement of resources? He stated that if something happens in Las Vegas, it would destroy the state economy.

Ms. Gunn stated that placement of resources referred to incidents happening in different places within the state (in different counties).

Mr. Fisher posed the following questions under Task Force Administration:
Nominate a chairman?
Future meetings?

Ms. Gunn posed the question of co-chairmans?

Mr. Vanderhoof suggested chair & vice-chair.

Mr. Curtis concurred with Mr. Vanderhoof.

Ms. Gunn nominated Mr. Fisher as chair, and Mr. Curtis as vice chair.

Mr. Fisher stated it would be presented at the next commission meeting. He then stated that he would have to leave the meeting early.

Mr. Curtis asked about future meetings?

Mr. Vanderhoof suggested one month before the commission mtgs.

Ms. Gunn concurred, and added that they should be held on either a Tuesday or a Thursday.

Mr. Vanderhoof suggested a specific Thursday of the month.

Ms. Gunn stated that she was already on the SERC that meets on the last Thursday of every month in the afternoon.

Mr. Curtis asked when the next HS Commission was scheduled. He recommended submitting the proposal of the three goals previously mentioned.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Curtis asked if there was any public comment. There was none.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Gunn motioned for adjournment.
Meeting was adjourned.

Meeting notes completed by Denise Parsons, for questions call (702) 632-0509 or email deniseparsons@state.nv.us